

Remarks

Support for the above-requested amendments to claims 1 and 16 is found at least on page 5, lines 25-30; page 11, lines 1-3 and 18-23; and page 12, lines 1-12. Claims 1, 8, 10, and 18 have been amended for grammatical reasons. Claims 12-15 were canceled without prejudice in a previous Amendment. No question of new matter arises and entry of the above-requested amendments is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11 and 16-24 are before the Examiner for consideration.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)/(c)

Claims 1-11 and 16-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)/(c) as being anticipated by WO 96/27039 to Claeys and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2007/0010154 to Claeys (collectively referred to as “Claeys”). The Examiner asserts that Claeys discloses strengthening materials suitable for reinforcement in composites that include at least one singular thickness-providing layer in the form of a knit of glass fibers and at least one singular strengthening layer connected to the singular thickness-providing layer. In addition, it is asserted that the layers are fastened together by a polyester thread. The Examiner has equated the polyester thread with the claimed monofilament.

Applicant's Response

In response to this rejection, Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to the amendments made to claims 1 and 16 and submits that claim 1 defines a strengthening material and claim 16 defines a laminate that are not taught (or suggested) within Claeys. Applicant submits that Claeys does not teach (or suggest) a strengthening material that includes (1) at least one singular thickness-providing layer in the form of a knit formed of at least one monofilament and a member selected from glass filaments, glass yarns, and combinations thereof and (2) at least one singular strengthening layer connected to the singular thickness-providing layer.

In particular, it is respectfully submitted that Claeys does not teach (or suggest) a singular thickness-providing layer in the form of a knit formed of at least one monofilament and glass filaments and/or glass yarns. Claeys teaches strengthening materials that include a thickness-providing layer formed of a knit of glass fibers.¹ Claeys simply does not teach (or even suggest) a thickness-providing layer that is formed of a knit formed of glass fibers

¹ See, e.g., page 2, lines 30-32; page 3, lines 9-13; and the Abstract of WO 96/27039 and paragraphs [0008] and [0011] of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2007/0010154.

and/or glass yarns and at least one monofilament as required by claims 1 and 16. Indeed, Clacys is silent regarding any teaching (or suggestion) of a thickness-providing in the form of a knit formed of at least one monofilament and glass filaments and/or glass yarns.

As is well established, in order for a reference to be anticipatory, each and every element of the claimed invention must be found within the four corners of the cited reference. It is respectfully submitted that because Clacys does not teach a singular thickness-providing layer in the form of a knit formed of at least one monofilament and a member selected from glass filaments, glass yarns, and combinations thereof as required by claim 1 and claim 16, Clacys is not an anticipatory reference. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 16, and all claims dependent therefrom, are not anticipated by Clacys.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that claims 1-11 and 16-24 are not anticipated by Clacys and respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Conclusion

In light of the above, Applicant believes that this application is now in condition for allowance and therefore requests favorable consideration.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0568 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Joan N. Drew/

Joan N. Drew
Registration No. 52,364

Owens Corning
Patent Department, Bldg. 21-0
2790 Columbus Road
Granville, Ohio 43023
(740) 321-7173